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## Laudatio: Professor Vittorio Bonomini

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Professor Bonomini was born in Parma, Italy, on April 12, 1928. He studied medicine at the University of Parma, graduated in 1953, and received training in internal medicine and nephrology at the University of Bologna. Professor Bonomini continued studies at the Hammersmith Hospital in London and spent some time as a Visiting Professor in Paris, Washington, D.C., and Rostock.

Promotion to Full Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Bologna in 1960 and appointment as the Head of the Renal Unit of the St. Orsola University Hospital in 1963 accelerated his career as a scientist and teacher. In this small unit, Professor Bonomini introduced many innovative methods in acute and chronic hemodialysis including daily dialysis and early dialysis in patients with or without prior low protein diet. He assembled and trained an excellent team of young assistants: Alberto Albertazzi, Giancarlo Bortolotti, Vittorio Mioli, Maria P. Scolari, Sergio Stefoni, and Alba Vangelista (Figure 2). All are now accomplished nephrologists and professors in Modena, Bologna, and/or Ancona, except for Dr. Bortolotti, who died prematurely in 1973.

Since 1973 Professor Bonomini has been the Director of the Institute of Nephrology and Transplantation of the St. Orsola University Hospital at the University of Bologna (Figure 3). At present he holds positions as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and chair of Nephrology and the Post-graduate School of Nephrology at the University of Bologna. His academic titles include Full Professor of Nephrology, Professor of Semeiotics, Medical Pathology, and Internal Medicine at the University of Bologna.

Throughout his career Professor Bonomini has remained a doctor who has championed patients' interests. His vast clinical experience includes approximately 900 renal transplants, 9000 kidney biopsies, and over 2500 patients on dialysis. More than 500 published original papers, editorials, monographs, and chapters, primarily related to dialysis, transplantation, and general nephrology, are the result of his essentially clinical research. Professor Bonomini is the Editor-in-Chief of *The International Journal of Artificial Organs*.

Publications and presentations in the early 1970s brought him recognition at national and international levels and election to leading positions in scientific societies: Councillor of the International Society of Nephrology, Vice-President of the International Society for Artificial Organs, President of the European Society for Artificial Organs, President of the Italian Society of Nephrology, President of the Inter-regional Association for Transplantation, and a Founding Member of the International Faculty for Artificial Organs. His merits as



FIGURE 1 Professor Vittorio Bonomini at the Conference.



FIGURE 2 Professor Bonomini's team when early dialysis was initiated in 1969. From the left: Giancarlo Bortolotti, Alberto Albertazzi, Sergio Stefoni, Vittorio Bonomini, Alba Vangelista, Maria P. Scolari, and Vittorio Mioli.

a leader and his achievements as a scientist have been acknowledged by honorary degrees in medicine from the Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, and University of Marseille, France. He has been elected to the Fellowship of



FIGURE 3 Professor Bonomini's team at the Institute of Nephrology, Dialysis, and Transplantation, Bologna, in 1997.



FIGURE 4 Professor Bonomini receives the National Kidney Foundation International Distinguished Medal from Professor Saulo Klahr in 1990.

the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, Scotland, and has been awarded the International Distinguished Medal of the National Kidney Foundation (Figure 4). After completing the presidency of the European Society for Artificial Organs in 1988, he was elected an Honorary Executive Member of the Society.

The University of Bologna, founded in 1088, is one of the oldest universities in Europe. Nicolaus Copernicus, the most famous student, attended the university from 1497 to 1500. The University's most eminent teachers in the Faculty of Medicine included Marcello Malpighi in the 17th century and Luigi Galvani in the 18th century. Professor Bonomini is undoubtedly one of the most eminent teachers of the university in the 20th century (Figure 5). He is one of the giants in the field of hemodialysis.

Similar to Malpighi and Galvani, his famous predecessors of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bologna, whose research initially aroused strong controversy among their colleagues, Professor Bonomini's studies on early, frequent, and efficient dialysis in chronic renal failure, published in the early 1970s, were received with great skepticism. Only now, after a quarter of a century, has the nephrology community embraced his notion that dialysis should be started before the patient becomes severely uremic and malnourished and that dialysis should be carried out frequently, optimally every day.

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FIGURE 5 Professor Bonomini and the Rector of the University of Bologna, Professor Fabio Alberto Roversi Monaco, on the occasion of the IXth Centenary Celebrations of the University in 1988.